Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-3.   (canceled)

4.   (new) A method for relaying Internet Protocol (IP) packets to a control component assigned to a network node in a communication network, the communication network having a plurality of network nodes and switching IP packets, the method comprising:

receiving an in-band IP signalling packet at an interface of the network node;

identifying the packet based on a protocol field of a header in the packet;

inserting a value assigned to the receiving interface into a field of the header or an IP header in the packet, the value different than another value assigned to a non-receiving interface of the network node; and

routing the modified packet to the control component.

5.   (new) The method according to claim 4, wherein prior to routing the modified packet, the packet is identified as an RSVP type packet and the value of a DSCP field in the header of the packet is modified as a function of the receiving interface.

6.   (new) The method according to claim 5, wherein the DSCP field contains the value assigned to the receiving interface.

Amendments To the Abstract:

In the English translation document, please add the section heading and paragraph at page 10 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT

IP packets are received, identified, evaluated and processed at interfaces of a network node in a communications network, which comprises a number of network nodes and which transmits IP packets. An in-band IP signaling packet, which is received at an interface of the network node, is identified at the interface and is characterized by an entry in the protocol field of the header of the IP packet, a one-to-one value, which is assigned to the receiving interface and which differs from the values of the other interfaces is entered in a field of the IP header of the IP packet and the modified packet is sent to the control component.--